

North Haven Public Schools

North Haven, Connecticut 06473

North Haven Public Schools
Board of Education Meeting

Minutes

Regular Meeting/Special Meeting/Organizational Meeting

Thursday, June 9, 2016, 6:30 p.m.

5 Linsley Street, North Haven, CT 06473

Attendance: Anita Anderson, Wesley O'Brien, Randi Petersen, Jennifer Cecarelli, Bryan Bogen, Jennifer Cecarelli, Dorothy Logan, Matthew Kerzner, Tina Tanguay, Director of Finance, Operations and Human Resources, Melinda McKenna, Assistant Superintendent, and Robert D. Cronin, Ph.D., Superintendent Of Schools

Goldie Adele was absent.

I. NHMS SBAC Presentation – Tracey Romberg and Susan Bass

Mrs. Romberg and Mrs. Bass gave an update on the Smarter Balance. Some of the improvements made were:

- Scheduling and locations
- School wide effort to improve testing culture
- The approach in Math and ELA

Some of the results of the improvements were:

- The testing schedule was successful and the testing period ran smoothly
- Teams met before each testing session to motivate students, ensure bathroom breaks, and to feed students
- Students worked diligently and made good use of their time
- The technology was as close to flawless as it could be.

II. Consent Agenda

1. Approval of the following retirements:

- a. Cathy Antonelli, Reading Specialist, K-5 Montowese
- b. Nancy Zaehring, Science Teacher, NHMS
- c. Karen Spencer, School Counselor, NHMS

2. Minutes May 5, 2016

Moved: To approve the Consent Agenda

Approved

MOVED: Wesley O'Brien
SECOND: Matthew Kerzner
AYE: 8
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

III. Board of Education Student Representatives Reports

Information Item

Larisa reported:

- Final Exams have begun
- Seniors are all done with finals and school
- Graduation Rehearsals are taking place Friday and Monday
- Graduation is Monday, June 13, 2016 at 4 p.m.
- Project Graduation – there are many attending this year
- Finals schedule was very inconvenient for the students and inconsistent

Celeste reported:

- Spring brawl is tonight
- Concerts on the Green – NHHS Band played this past Tuesday
- Sr. and Jr. Awards took place
- Applications for a new Junior Board Representative has begun

Mrs. Anderson thanked the two representatives for all of the hard work and input and wished Larissa all the best in college. She will be missed next year. Celeste will be our Senior Representative next year. Mrs. Anderson also thanked the Board, teachers, and Central Office Administrators/Staff for all of their hard work and long hours throughout this school year.

IV. Report of the Board of Education Chairperson or Designee

Information Item

1. Discussion regarding summer Board of Education Meetings

There will be no July Board of Education Meeting and August's Board of Education meeting will be re-scheduled later in the month. Date change to be announced.

2. Ratification of the Clerical Union Contract

Moved: to ratify the Clerical Union contract

Approved

MOVED: Matthew Kerzner
SECOND: Bryan Bogen
AYE: 8
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

3. Ratification of the Custodial Union Contract

Moved: to ratify the Custodial Union Contract

Approved

MOVED: Matthew Kerzner
SECOND: Bryan Bogen
AYE: 8
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

V. Unfinished Business

- Mrs. Caldwell asked for an update regarding the Mascot Issue
Mrs. Anderson is reviewing Mr. Bevin Moore's investigation regarding this topic and will report out once she reviews it.
- Mrs. Caldwell asked for an update on the pros and cons of the turf fields
Dr. Cronin responded that he feels it is going to be a very long time because the building committee is still in the construction phase of the building and fields are not on the radar right now.

VI. New Business

1 Approval of the 2016-2017 Board of Education Meeting Dates

Moved: to approve the 2016-2017 Board of Education meeting dates

Approved

- Delete July 14th meeting due to lack of quorum
- Change August 11 to August 16
- Summer meetings (August) will begin at 5:30 p.m.

MOVED: Mathew Kerzner
SECOND: Bryan Bogen
AYE: 8
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

VII. Reports of Standing Committees

1. ACES

Information Item

Mrs. Logan reported:

- Aces Mill Road kindergarten playground was dedicated to Alicia Clapp for her 20 years of service to ACES government body.
- End of the year report
- Recognition of retirees
- Leeder Hill renovations to new project was approved by the State

Mrs. Anderson congratulated Mrs. Clapp on the honor of having the playground dedicated to her. She stated that Mrs. Clapp worked very hard for both North Haven Public Schools and ACES

2. Athletics

Information Item

There was no meeting this month

Mrs. Petersen stated that she would like to go over the CIAC Codes of Conducts for students, parents and coaches and would like to have these codes implemented for the fall seasons. She stated that she will forward all documents she finds regarding this for the Board to review for approval.

3. Curriculum, Instruction, and Planning

Information Item

- a. Approval of field trip to Stonehill College in North Easton, MA
July 26-July 29, 2016 for the Diversity Club

Moved: to approve the field trip to Stonehill College in North Easton, MA on
July 26-July 29, 2016 for the Diversity Club

Approved

MOVED: Matthew Kerzner
SECOND: Randi Petersen
AYE: 8
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

- b. Approval of the field trip to NCA Cheer Camp in Warwick, RI
August 14-August 17, 2016 for the NHHS Cheerleaders

Moved: to approve the field trip to NCA Cheer Camp in Warwick, RI August 14-August
17, 2016 for the NHHS Cheerleaders

Approved

MOVED: Matthew Kerzner
SECOND: Randi Petersen
AYE: 8
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

- c. Approval of the field trip to Facebook Headquarters in
Menlo Park, California, October 19-23, 2016 for the Diversity
Club

Moved: to approve the field trip to Facebook Headquarters in Menlo Park, California
October 19-23, 2016 for the Diversity Club

Approved

MOVED: Matthew Kerzner
SECOND: Randi Petersen
AYE: 8
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

Dr. O'Brien stated that Curriculum, Instruction and Planning met on Monday, June 6, 2016 and reported the following:

Russ Dallai and Robin River (in her capacity as Diversity Club Advisor) joined the group to propose two field trips.

The New England Student Leadership Conference at Stonehill College in Easton MA will include 3 student delegates from NHHS chosen for their leadership capacities. Students will depart North Haven on July 26 and return on July 29. The trip is completely funded; no payment from students is necessary.

North Haven has received a VIP invitation to attend the inspirED Summit at Facebook Headquarters in Menlo Park, CA. The invitation is a result of having been selected as an inspirED Primary School. The trip is sponsored by the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence. No cost will be incurred by students. The Summit goal is to "help educators and youth integrate social and emotional learning into classrooms, schools and communities in order to create a more positive learning environment." Three to 5 students and 1 chaperone will depart North Haven on 10/5/16 and return on 10/9/16.

The committee enthusiastically and unanimously endorsed both opportunities.

The committee discussed an additional field trip to NCA Cheer Camp at Crowne Plaza in Warwick, RI. Twenty-six students and 4 chaperones will leave North Haven on 8/14/16 and return on 8/17/16. Chaperones will be on the bus with the students. Cost: 325.00. Funding is available.

Following our support of these field trips, we entered into a discussion regarding the North Haven BOE By-laws, which require that the entire Board approve initiatives supported by its subcommittees. The committee felt that in many cases such required approval by the entire Board abrogates the purpose of sub-committee proceedings, and that the by-laws should be amended to empower subcommittees to approve certain events and initiatives autonomously. We will investigate such an amendment further and will bring it to the Board at some future date.

Russ Dallai presented a revised attendance policy designed to clarify, and in some ways tighten, expectations with regard to student attendance and tardiness, and to bring North Haven's policy into line with current legislation. The board is being provided a copy of the policy. The committee suggests that the Policy Committee work to include the new policy in the current policy manual.

Lisette Camps joined the group to apprise us of North Haven's participation in UConn's Early College Experience program. Ms. Camps (AKA Señora Campos) will teach Español 3178 in AY 2016-2017 for college credit. There is currently an 87% college acceptance of transfer credits from the program. The committee requested a list of those institutions that do *not* accept the credits so that students who are considering those institutions do not meet with an unpleasant surprise.

Phil Piazza joined the group to discuss the possibility of creating a National Junior Honor Society at NHMS. According to area schools who have such societies, the process of implementation is fraught with possible missteps; and while the committee feels positively about its creation, all agreed that we must consider the particulars carefully and take the necessary time to craft it properly, particularly in light of the demands of settling into the new Middle School. Mr. Piazza suggested that it would probably take about a year to do it properly, and he will prepare a timeline to that end. In any event, it will not take place during AY 2016-2017.

Following the discussion of the Honor Society, Ms. Anderson initiated a larger discussion based upon her concern that many students (those who may not qualify for extracurricular activities that are currently in place based upon achievement or interest) do not have productive ways to spend their free time. We discussed a number of school based possibilities to address this concern. One promising possibility included the initiation of a community service component on the Middle School level.

The committee "officially" approved two previously-reviewed textbooks: *Adventures in Food and Nutrition!* and *Technology Engineering Our World*.

Curriculum, Instruction and Planning will suspend meetings while school is not in session with the exception of one meeting before the beginning of the new school year—probably in August.

4. Finance and Operations

Information Item

Mr. Bogen reported that the budget is trending as usual with some concerns regarding the medical piece. He reported that Mrs. Tanguay is watching that closely. Mr. Bogen reported that we are waiting on the Healthy Food Contract from the State of Connecticut.

Mrs. Anderson publically thanked all of the people in the town, parents, etc. for all of their hard work and getting out there and voting for the budget

5. Middle School Building Committee

Information Item

Dr. Cronin stated that construction is on target. The furniture went through and has been ordered and completion is Certificate of Occupancy is targeted for August 25, 2016.

Mrs. Anderson requested an open house for public once the school is complete.

6. North Haven Education Foundation

Information Item

Mr. Kerzner reported:

- \$17,317 was made at Annual Spelling Bee
- April 27, 2017 is next year's date for the Annual Spelling Bee
- Trophy is displayed at Arnolds Jewelers
- Grant discussed for playground project at Green Acres Elementary School
- Community Star Dinner discussion

7. Policy

Mrs. Caldwell reported:

The 6000 Series were reviewed, edited, and forwarded to CABA for their editing. Once received back from CABA the packet will be distributed to the Board of Education for their "first read". Mrs. Caldwell distributed research regarding "homework" for the Board of review for the policy packets. Mrs. Caldwell reported that the committee will begin their work on the 7000 Series at their next Policy Committee Meeting on June 16, 2016.

8. PTA Council

Information Item

Mrs. Cecarelli reported:

The North Haven PTA Council met on May 16, 2016 in the NHHS Library conference room. Representatives from the following groups were present and provided reports:

- NHHS Student Council
- NHMS PTSA
- Montowese PTA
- Ridge Road PTA
- Clintonville PTA
- Board of Education Rep

1) NHHS Student Council shared an overview of current events at the NHHS such as: NHHS hosting the State FPS Competition in April, where a few of our teams earned the opportunity to travel to the international competition. The Teacher Talent Show (held on years opposite Mr. North Haven) made \$1,460. Student Council held their elections for a new executive board on Tuesday, and they have '16-'17 board in place. The students were also casting their votes for Teacher of the Year, and looking forward to Physics Day.

2) NHMS PTSA shared that they are very pleased that Mr. Piazza was awarded MS Principal of the Year by the CT PTA. Be a Hero Club recently volunteered at Animal Haven. The PTA raised \$240 in box tops, and donated \$500 for a Best Buddies field trip to Aces Mill Road and the Be a Hero trip.

3) Ridge Road shared several events, including a successful Shred Day on 4/2, their annual Parent/Teacher basketball game, the Nature's Classroom trip, and Field Day. Also in April, they hosted a cultural performance by Chinese acrobats, and their annual Variety Show.

4) Clintonville shared that they hosted a successful Teacher Appreciation Week, as well as a chorus and band concert on 5/23, and their end-of-year picnic earlier this week on 6/5.

5) Montowese reported that their leadership Council worked on the flowerbeds at the school on 4/30, held an SBAC assemble, where younger kids sang for older grades to show their support, and hosted the NHHS Jazz Band for an assembly. The PTA also hosted a Muffins with Moms breakfast, and a Donuts with Dads breakfast. The school raised \$10,000 for St. Baldrick's, and also raised \$1,300 with their mother-son event.

P.T.A. Council and RR had questions regarding what will happen to NHMS photocopiers when they move into the new facility. Currently, both of these organizations are copying at their own expense. If these copiers will be donated, they would very much like to be considered for donations.

The Council was an excellent support to the BOE with budget awareness, community engagement, and increasing voter turnout.

P.T.A. Council would like to host Make a Difference Day again this fall, so save the date for the 3rd Saturday in October! Lisa and Marianne are very grateful for the support they received this year, their first year as PTA Council leadership. They are proud of the council's efforts this year, and look forward to continued growth next year!

Yearbook update – received four bids for next year and are reviewing them. Dr. Dallai will do an all call to update parents.

VIII. Staff Communications

A. Superintendent's Report

Information Item

- Dr. Cronin reported that HS counselors are going to be available during July and August this year for students and parents. They will be available for college planning session, credit and graduation checks, strategies for academic success, and social and emotional support. There will be a counselor in the building for a day every week and students/parents can make appointments with their counselor then if needed. Notifications will be going out informing families of these schedules.
- Informal Observations of Non-Tenured Certified Staff – Discussion – Dr. Cronin started this practice conducting informal observations of teachers who are eligible for tenure at the start of the new school year. Dr. Cronin stated that he does the observation with the principal and then he and the principal meet with the teacher afterwards. Dr. Cronin has done that this year and feels that teachers are doing a great job in their planning. These teacher do not know when this observation is happening, and all have been very prepared, planning complete and has been a very positive experience.

B. Assistant Superintendent's Report

Information Item

Mrs. McKenna reported:

- Update regarding Nature's Classroom and the survey administered to Grade 4 parents and Grade 5 teachers. She reported that there is Interest in every school, but the data was divided across the board and gave very mixed picture. Concerns regarding cost, nursing available while at Natures Classroom and technology use while at Natures Classroom. Having all four schools goes opens many questions regarding principals, teachers and who goes along on the trip, also there is question regarding funding, as well as supervision. This is all information for the Board to think over and discuss in detail. Mrs. McKenna reported that the group felt that this should be a trip for Grade 5 only.

C. Director of Finance and Operations

1. Director of Finance and Operation's Report
2. Approval of the 2015-2016 Monthly Financial Report

Information Item

Mrs. Tanguay stated the year is winding down she is closing purchase orders for the 2015-2016 school year.

Moved: to approve the 2015-2016 Monthly Financial Report

Approved

MOVED: Bryan Bogen
SECOND: Matthew Kerzner
AYE: 8
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

IX. Public Comment

- Cheri Gibson – thanked the Board of Education for all they do. She asked questions regarding enrollment and if there were any issues at any of the schools. Mrs. Gibson stated that she agreed with the discussion regarding Natures Classroom and having options for all students. Mrs. Gibson also commented regarding the supply list issue and how it was being handled this up-coming year. Dr. Cronin responded, that if the teachers want the students to have specific supplies for their class, that is the teacher's responsibility and they should be purchased by the district. Dr. Cronin stated that a child should be expected to bring a notebook, paper and pen.
- Julie Bossenberry made a comment UCONN Early College Experience for the Spanish class. She wanted to know if it was also available for other languages, such as Italian and French. Mrs. McKenna responded stated

that it is only available for Italian and Spanish at this time because the French teacher does not have the qualifications at this time.

X. Future Agenda Items

Discussion Item

XI. Executive Session –for matters of personnel

Moved: to enter into Executive Session for matters of personnel at 8:25 p.m.

Approved

MOVED: Matthew Kerzner
SECOND: Randi Petersen
AYE: 8
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

Came out of Executive Session at 9:10 p.m.

XII. Adjournment

Moved: to adjourn at 9:10 p.m.

Approved

MOVED: Dorothy Logan
SECOND: Jennifer Cecarelli
AYE: 8
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

Respectfully submitted,

Anita Anderson

Anita Anderson
Chairman